

Richardson, W. L.

March-May 1915

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

W. L. RICHARDSON

DIRECTOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

EDMONTON, ALTA. Mar. 6, 1915.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Dr. Falconer:

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Re my admission to the B. A. Degree in the University of Toronto in 1911-You will probably remember that a large part of my work towards this degree was done extra mural, during five years previous to June, 1911, and that I was awarded honors in the work of my course, English and History with Moderns option, for first, second, third, and part of the fourth years, but failed to make the proper standing in honor French of the fourth year, and was consequently awarded a pass degree or the option of taking an examination in honor French of the fourth year at a subsequent examination, and if successful, receiving an honor degree.

As I remember, a reception was given to the graduates on the evening of the day on which the results affecting me were announced in the newspapers, and at this function I consulted you, asking you your opinion as to which alternative I should accept, the pass degree immediately, or writing the honor French papers at a subsequent examination, with a view to securing the honor degree. We had some little conversation with respect to this, and you asked me to telephone you next day, which I accordingly

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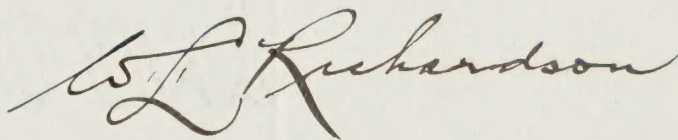
did. In the course of the telephone conversation you told me that you thought it would be, on the whole, best for me to take the degree at once because it might be worth while for me to have it, and that I could take the honor French papers at the subsequent examination if I so decided, and thus, if successful, raise my standing.

I think I have narrated the facts faithfully and would be grateful to you for a letter of confirmation.

I am writing to Mr. Brebner by this mail asking him for a detailed statement of my work towards the degree.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "W.L. Richardson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

W.L.R./W.

Director of Technical Education.

March 17th, 1915

W. L. Richardson, Esq.,
Director Technical Education,
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I am afraid that you are mistaken as to your standing in the University with regard to honours. According to our record you were admitted to the pass degree on the results of examination in the specialist department of English and History with Moderns option.

According to the regulations of the Faculty of Arts, see the Arts Calendar for 1914-15 section 105, a candidate of the fourth year who fails to obtain standing in the special course may on recommendation of the examiners be awarded a pass degree. If the candidate does not accept the award he may repeat the year and then compete for honours. There is no regulation granting the permission to repeat part of the honour work of the year. I could not have said to you at that conversation that it would be possible for you to have part of your honour work given to your credit. My knowledge of our regulations, which are so ^{ted} multitudinous, is such that I never offhand give advice of that kind to any one. I do remember, however, a conversation, and I rather think I remember saying that I thought it would be advisable for you to take your pass degree as you might find use for it immediately. Probably my advice was due to certain facts that I have forgotten which you laid before me telling me your prospects at the time. I remember nothing further than that general

conversation that we had.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

EDMONTON, ALTA. Mar. 30, 1915.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,
President University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Dr. Falconer:

Please accept my thanks for your kind letter of Mar. 17th re my admission to the B. A. Degree in June 1911.

The conclusion I reached in our two conversations at that time, as given in my recent letter of Mar. 6th, may be wrong, but is a fair statement of my understanding of the matter at that time. However, please be sure I accept completely your statement with regard to it.

I have recently received from Mr. Brebner a certificate of my standing by years in Toronto University. I enclose this and wish to ask your indulgence while I refer to it. There is a detail in connection with my work in Toronto University about which I think you may not be conversant. It is this - a few members of the teaching staff of the Toronto Board of Education were kindly granted certain privileges in view of their desire to increase their scholarship, although not wishing to resign their positions and enter the University in the usual way. Among these privileges was the concession to write examinations piecemeal, instead of by "years". Thus I wrote fourth year Honor Modern History in the year 1910 and was awarded second class honors, while I did not write fourth year Honor English, French and German of my course until the year 1911. The daily newspapers containing the results of the latter examination stated that I was awarded a pass degree or the option of writing fourth year Honor French at a subsequent examination.

Now, I have assumed, I think fairly, that since the examiners asked me to write only fourth year Honor French

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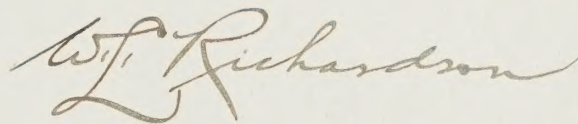
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at the subsequent examination that I must have made the Honor standing in English and German. My Honor standing in History had already been published. The certificate from Mr. Brebner omits my fourth year's standing in History, English and German, and also a statement that I might have written fourth year Honor French at a subsequent examination, but accepted the pass degree. I think after taking honors in first, second, third, and part of the fourth years, that I am sufficiently punished by being deprived of the degree in Honors, and that my certificate should contain the whole story of my work in the fourth year as it does in the first three years. I am sincerely hoping that you will agree with me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. L. Richardson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

W.L.R./W.

Director of Technical Education.

April 19th, 1915

W. L. Richardson, Esq.,
Director Technical Education,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I must ask you to pardon me for the delay in answering your letter. For one cause or another I have been unable to answer it until the present. I enclose, however, now a letter to me from Mr. Brebner which he wrote after having discussed the matter fully with me. As I see the case the request that you make is one that would be entirely contrary to the practice that has been followed for some years in the University.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 19th, 1915.

President Falconer

University of Toronto

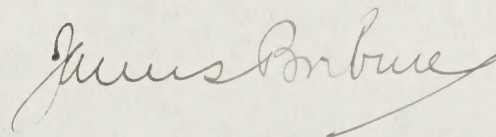
Dear Mr President:

In connection with the case of Mr W. L. Richardson, I find, on reference to my records, that we omitted to mention Second Class Honours in Modern History of the Fourth Year, taken in 1910.

So far as his standing in the Fourth Year is concerned, he was given the option of accepting a Pass Degree on what he had done, or, since he was a student proceeding under the Teachers' Course Regulations, to receive credit for all the individual subjects in the Fourth Year in which he had obtained Honours, *and* the deferring of his Degree until he should secure Honours in French of the Fourth Year. He was given this option, and it was so announced in the newspapers. When he accepted the Pass Degree, following our practice, no detail with reference to his standing in the various subjects was announced. Reference to the Class Lists of 1911, and other years, shows that that has been our practice in all the Departments, where, after the name of the student the words "Pass Degree" appear, and then in the detail of the Departments the letters "P. D." appear, but without any indication of the standing in the individual subjects.

To give Mr Richardson the details which he asks would be breaking our practice of many years.

Yours very truly,



JB/NM

Registrar

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May 8th, 1915

W. L. Richardson, Esq.,
Director of Technical Education,
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I have again consulted with Mr. Brebner as to the form of certificate that should be given you for your Bachelor's degree. I cannot see that in the circumstances there is sufficient reason for urging the Registrar to change a practice which he tells me has been uniform.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.